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# SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

Benton, Miss Mildred

May 13, 1939

## SAND DUNE STABILIZATION ON THE SANTA FE RAILROAD

The Army flood control program in Colorado calls for the building of a dam on Caddoa Creek just north of where it empties into the Arkansas River. This, in turn, necessitates the re-routing of some 20 miles of the main line of the Santa Fe Railroad in the vicinity of Las Animas, Colo.

The most direct route for this new stretch of railroad line--whereby approximately \$2,500,000 would be saved--is through three areas of active sand dunes. The area involved is several hundred acres in extent with dunes to 20 feet high.

SCS has been requested by the Army to cooperate on the stabilization of these dune areas. The Army will finance the project and supply the labor; SCS will assist with advice and technical supervision.

Charles J. Whitfield, who supervised the dune stabilization research project at Dalhart, Texas, will assist the operations division in carrying out this work. He spent part of last week in Washington discussing plans and working out details for the preparation of a field agreement between the SCS and the Army.

## SCS MEN HONORED

Mark L. Nichols, acting head of research, and William R. Van Dersal of the wildlife section were recently elected to membership in the Washington Academy of Sciences. The Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences is published by this society, which acts as head of the affiliated scientific societies in Washington. Its membership is limited to 400 residents of the District of Columbia.

### LEGISLATION

The agriculture appropriation bill as reported from the Senate appropriations committee carried an increase of \$378,000,000 to be added to the \$835,000,000 voted by the House a month ago. The increase would be as follows:

\$225,000,000 for parity payments  
 115,000,000 for disposal of farm surplus products  
 25,000,000 additional for the farm tenancy act  
 13,000,000 for other Agricultural Department activities.

An amendment proposed by Senator Miller to add approximately \$2,000,000 to the appropriation for cooperation with soil conservation districts was defeated on the Senate floor by a vote of 39 to 31. The appropriation bill was passed by the Senate and will probably go to conference within a day or two.

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Bills passed by the House are:

H.R. 169 to facilitate control of soil erosion and flood damage originating on Cleveland National Forest lands, Calif.

H.R. 2009 to facilitate control of soil erosion and flood damage on Angeles National Forest lands, Calif.

H.R. 2417 to facilitate control of soil erosion and flood damage on Sequoia National Forest lands, Calif.

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Bills were introduced to authorize the construction of flood control works on Cherry Creek, Colo., and the Rio Grande, Colo.; to authorize the construction of reservoirs on the Grand (Neosho) River, Okla.; and to authorize a preliminary examination and survey of the Illinois River and of Owasco Inlet, N. Y.

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On May 8 the House passed H.R. 5987 amending the District of Columbia traffic act so as to allow Government vehicle operators stationed in the field to drive in D. C. on temporary official business without D. C. permits.

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The Treasury Department appropriation bill, signed by the President on May 6, carries a clause denying the franking privilege to Government publications the sending of which has not been requested and is not required by law.

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Bills to amend the civil service regulations at present pending before Congress are: S. 2904 to eliminate maximum age requirements for positions in the classified civil service and H.R. 960 which would blanket into the classified civil service practically all employees now exempt except those holding policy-forming positions. Amendments submitted would exempt WPA employees and employees failing to pass non-competitive civil service examinations.

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The House on May 3 overwhelmingly approved the President's first reorganization plan. It will go into effect on June 25, according to the law.

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The President's second reorganization plan, received by both Houses on May 9 includes the following transfers:

To Department of Agriculture: Rural Electrification  
Administration  
To State Department: Foreign Agricultural Service,  
now in Commerce Department  
To Interior Department: Bureau of Biological Survey,  
now in Department of Agriculture.

This order will become law in 60 days unless disapproved by concurrent resolution. If Congress adjourns sine die before the expiration of 60 days, a new 60-day period will begin on the opening of next session.

#### THE CHIEF VISITS REGION 5

H. H. Bennett left on May 13 for a ten-day visit to the five state advisory committees of Region 5. He will inspect the Soil Conservation Service project at Kahoka, Mo., and the Land Utilization projects at Beltrami and Pine Island in northern Minnesota.

On June 25, Dr. Bennett will leave for Texas to attend the official opening of Buffalo lake near Umbargo, Tex.

### JACOB GOODALE LIPMAN

With the recent death of Jacob Goodale Lipman the field of agriculture, particularly that of soil science, suffered a severe blow.

Founder of the journal Soil Science in 1915 on which he served as editor-in-chief, Dr. Lipman was director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station from 1911 until his death. His publications include a long list of technical papers on soils, soil bacteriology, and agronomy.

In 1929, Dr. Lipman was elected to serve as a State Experiment Station representative on a National Committee on Soil Erosion which formulated plans for dealing with the soil erosion problem. Always a friend of soil conservation, his unfailing advice and assistance was greatly relied upon. In the passing of Dr. Lipman, the Service and the soil conservation movement has lost a sincere friend.

### NEW RULING ON REPAIR SHOPS

In order to promote economy and efficiency in the maintenance and rehabilitation of all U.S.D.A. automotive and heavy equipment, the following consolidated repair shops shall be established effective June 15 or July 1, 1939:

Soil Conservation Service will organize and operate a consolidated mechanical repair shop at Albuquerque, N. Mex.

Forest Service will organize and operate a similar shop at Missoula, Mont.

Bureau of Public Roads will be responsible for the organization of a shop at Denver, Colo.

The facilities of each shop will be used by all Departmental agencies and will be available to any other Federal organization. Establishment of the Albuquerque shop is scheduled for July 1, 1939.

### A.A.A.S. MEETINGS

A joint meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Society of American Agricultural Engineers will be held at Milwaukee, Wis., June 19-24 inclusive. Mark L. Nichols, acting chief of research, will present a paper entitled "Mutual Problems of Conservation Engineering and Geology" and C. F. Stewart Sharpe of



the section of climatic research will present a paper on "Landslides in Relation to Agricultural and Engineering Problems."

PRINTER'S INK

H. E. Bennett discusses the policies of the Soil Conservation Service in an article entitled "One Land-Use Program for Better Rural Life" in the Extension Service Review for May 1939.

SCS is depicted as one cog in the machinery set up by the Department to deal with agricultural problems. The basic purpose of the Service, Dr. Bennett points out, is to aid farmers in adopting a better land use program with a view to conserving natural resources and establishing balanced agriculture; the achievement of this purpose depends in large measure upon the cooperation of Soil Conservation Service with other bureaus of the Department.

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A preliminary report on one phase of the research carried on by the section of climatic and physiographic research appears in the Monthly Weather Review for January 1939. In an article entitled "The Determination of Evaporation from Land and Water Surfaces", C. W. Thornthwaite and Benjamin Holzman analyze results obtained from evaporation stations at the Muskingum Climatic Research Center in Ohio and on Arlington Farm, Va. The instruments, which were devised by the personnel of the climatic research section, and the formulae employed are discussed.

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An account of the classes of rotations developed at the SCS project located on the south fork of the Palouse River in the vicinity of Moscow, Idaho, and Pullman, Washington, appears in the Journal of the American Society of Agronomy for April 1939. In an article entitled "Soil-Conserving and Soil-Improving Crop Rotations for the Palouse", Sam L. Sloan, Arden W. Jacklin and Verle G. Kaiser, all of Region 11, outline the rotations recommended and evaluate the extent to which erosion may be controlled by these methods.

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Approximately 300 tons of soil per acre have been blown or washed from eastern New Mexico during the past 20 or 30 years, writes Glenn M. Burrow, soil conservationist of Clovis, N. Mex., in the New Mexico Stockman for March 1939. Mr. Burrow outlines the agricultural history of the area and the climatic factors which

influence vegetation, and recommends grazing and conservation practices by which the grazing capacity would be increased to the maximum.

#### FLOOD CONTROL CONFERENCES

The flood control coordinating committee and sub-committee are holding conferences at Salt Lake City, Utah, and St. Louis, Mo., to discuss flood control problems in those areas. A. L. Patrick, head of the division of watershed and conservation surveys who is a member of the coordinating committee, and Raymond H. Davis, head of the flood control surveys section who is on the sub-committee, are representing the Soil Conservation Service.

Dr. Patrick will visit Wyoming and Nebraska before returning to Washington. Dr. Davis and other members of the sub-committee will inspect watersheds of the Washita, Okla., Gila, N. Mex., Rio Puerco, N. Mex., Fountain and Cherry Creeks, Colo., and St. Francis, Mo., to study flood control problems in those regions.

#### A.G.U. MEETING

The twentieth annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union was held in Washington, D. C., on April 26, 27, and 28, 1939. Papers presented by SCS personnel were:

C. W. Thornthwaite and Benjamin Holzman - "Evaporation in Hydrologic Studies."

O. R. Neal - "Soil-Moisture Content under Various Conservation Practices."

C. S. Jarvis - "Great Floods in the United States."

#### CONGRESS OF AGRICULTURE AT DRESDEN

The Experiment Station Record for March states that the eighteenth International Congress of Agriculture will be held in Dresden, Germany, from June 6 to 12, 1939 under the auspices of the International Confederation of Agriculture. It will be organized into sections of agrarian policy and farm management; agricultural cooperative societies; cultivation of plants; viticulture, fruit growing and the cultivation of special plants; animal production; agricultural industries; rural life and the work of the countryman; and agricultural sciences (including the organization and encouragement of research in the field of agriculture).



BRITISH AGRICULTURIST ON VISIT TO U.S.

Gilbert Walters of the Harper Adams Agricultural College, Shropshire, England, is on a visit to this country to study recent improvements in soil mapping and in soil and water conservation research. The Harper Adams college, which includes in its curriculum instruction on conservation, is making an intensive study on the distribution and nature of the soils in Shropshire.

NOTES

Dillon S. Myer, assistant to the Chief, and Mark L. Nichols, acting chief of research, are on a two-weeks' trip to Region 2 to review the work of the drainage district areas, land utilization, and the soil conservation districts.

C. B. Manifold, chief of the division of conservation operations, and H. E. Middleton of the research division, are to join them on an inspection trip to the Everglades region in Florida to get a better understanding of the forest fire problem in that region.

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C. S. Jarvis of the section of watershed and hydrologic studies is at present in Georgia where he will spend some time on the Coosa River surveys. He plans to visit the Washita River, Oklahoma, and the Fountain River, Colorado, to assist in cooperative work on surveys of those rivers before returning to Washington at the end of May.

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R. S. Goodridge of the section of watershed and hydrologic studies is spending two weeks at Cartersville, Ga., to study flood assembly analysis and technical questions on hydrologic problems of the Coosa River.

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## FARM CONSERVATION PLAN AND FARMER-DISTRICT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT COMPLETED

A committee consisting of Harry C. Diener and V. H. Hougen of the erosion control practices unit, Melville Cohee of the cooperative planning unit, Roy D. Hockinsmith of conservation surveys, and H. P. Martin of the procurement, contracts and space unit, has recently completed recommendations for formulation and use of farm conservation plan and use of the farmer-district cooperative agreement.

Members of the Washington staff who have been closely associated with this development are planning to visit each regional office before June 15 to discuss these recommendations with the regional personnel. These new recommendations and the revised form of cooperative agreement have been developed in close cooperation with field staff members. Recommendations made by a committee of field men who met in Washington last January were followed to a considerable extent.

## CHIEF TO SPEAK AT TEXAS CONSERVATION RALLY

A conservation rally, sponsored by the State soil and water conservation association and regional chamber of commerce groups, will be held at Temple, Texas, on May 29.

H. H. Bennett will address the meeting on soil conservation districts. The soil conservation law will be launched during the rally and a State soil conservation board organized. The local newspaper, the Temple Telegram, will issue a special edition devoted to the event.



### CHIEF TO BROADCAST FROM AMARILLO

Dr. Bennett will participate in a radio program on land problems in the southern plains to be broadcast from Amarillo, Texas, over Station KGNC on May 28.

The program is planned in the form of a dialogue between Dr. Bennett and John McCarty, a member of the Panhandle Water Conservation Association and editor of the Amarillo News. In the early days of the soil conservation movement Mr. McCarty was connected with a Dalhart paper. He devoted editorials and articles to the need for soil conservation, attended a conservation training school held at Dalhart some years ago, and has been keenly interested in the problems and progress of conservation planning since the inception of the Service.

### CONSERVATION IN PRIMITIVE AGRICULTURE

The word "conservation" was probably unknown to the American Indian. Both soil and water conservation measures, however, were employed in primitive Indian agriculture. Although the Indian was primarily interested in saving the precious water, soil conservation was necessarily involved.

Guy R. Stewart of the chief's office recently spent five weeks studying both prehistoric and modern Indian agricultural methods in the Southwest. He found that by means of water conservation on sloping land and by terracing, areas that today are incapable of supporting agriculture were once thriving farming communities.

Dr. Stewart located a number of such areas in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. The early irrigation systems in the Salt River valley, of the cut-and-fill variety, were constructed with rude stone hoes. At Hotevilla and Oraibi in Arizona, Dr. Stewart found the Hopi Indians still employ agricultural practices handed down from one generation to another, by which they manage even in dry years to eke out an existence.

### U.S.D.A. EMPLOYEE TRAINING POLICY

Last fall the Secretary of Agriculture appointed a Department committee on in-service training on which F. J. Hopkins, chief of the division of administration, represented Soil Conservation Service.

The committee's preliminary report was sent to the Civil Service Commission, the Office of Education, chiefs of bureaus and offices of the Department, and others. The final report of the committee has just been issued. Revised to include many valuable suggestions

that were received, it is recommended by the Secretary as a sound basis for employee training programs.

### LEGISLATION

The War Department civil appropriation bill (H.R. 6260) passed the House on May 15. An item of \$3,000,000 included in the bill is to be transferred to this Department for preliminary examinations and surveys on flood-control projects.

Speeches by Mr. Ellis and Mr. Geyer of California favoring increased appropriations for flood control and extension of remarks of Mr. Bender on the same subject were included in the appendix to the Congressional Record for May 15.

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On May 19 the Senate passed and sent to the House for concurrence a joint resolution making the President's first and second reorganization plans effective July 1. The adoption of this resolution would simplify matters from a government bookkeeping standpoint.

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Senator King introduced a joint resolution on May 12 to impound 10% of all appropriations for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1940, with certain exceptions which are not applicable to Soil Conservation Service.

### PRINTERS' INK

The article on "The Approach to Farm Forestry" by John F. Preston of the woodlands section which appears in the Journal of Forestry for May was submitted in August 1938. The author's views on the subject of farm forestry as expressed in the article were formulated before the Departmental reorganization gave the major responsibility for the farm forestry program to the Soil Conservation Service.

Mr. Preston points out the necessity of convincing both farmers and agricultural workers of the value of forestry practices in farm economy. He recommends that the Department undertake cooperative management of at least 1,000 farm woodlands scattered throughout the United States in order to demonstrate what proper management of the woodland can accomplish as an agricultural enterprise. (The farm forestry demonstration projects, as now planned, will probably bring several thousand farm woodlands under cooperative management.)



## EROSIVE POWER OF RAIN DROPS

In studying the mechanics of erosion, the section of watershed and hydrologic studies has been conducting research on the energy and consequent erosive power of rain drops. Donald A. Parsons and James O. Laws spent part of this month at Cambridge, Mass., where they assisted in making a series of short exposure still pictures illustrating the physical phenomena of rain striking the soil.

## EFFECT OF SOIL CONSERVATION ON RURAL COMMUNITIES

An effort is being made by the rural sociology department of Harvard University in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service to determine what effect conservation practices have had on rural communities and whether a recommended conservation program is likely to be continued after the stimulating influence of an agency such as Soil Conservation Service has been removed.

Carl Zimmerman, head of the rural sociology department at Harvard, will direct a six-weeks' research project to be conducted by student-trainees during June-July at Bath, N. C., during which each resident in the rural community will be interviewed. Bath was the first community to be settled in North Carolina. A similar six-weeks' study will be carried on at Pleasant Hill, Mo., during July-August.

Dr. Zimmerman, who has studied similar problems in Europe over a number of years, feels that the long-time success of soil conservation district planning will depend upon whether or not the rural communities wholeheartedly approve the programs and are willing to cooperate with the government activities.

## GEORGE COLLIER TO DISCUSS PASTURE FARMING IN MISSOURI.

The Missouri College of Agriculture has requested George Collier, assistant, farm management unit, to appear on a program of a three-day course to be held by the college June 8-11. Mr. Collier will discuss practical problems of pasture farming in Missouri. He is co-author with O. R. Johnson of Research Bulletin No. 282 entitled "Effects of Better Selection of Crops and Pastures on Farm Income in Missouri" published by the University of Missouri College of Agriculture in 1938.

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI GETS USE OF 2,250-ACRE AREA FOR 50 YEARS

An agreement has just been signed transferring to the University of Missouri use of the 2,250-acre game project in Boone County.



The University shall have the use of the property for 50 years as an arboretum and wildlife refuge and as an experimental area for field investigation and research in the biological sciences. The university shall assume all costs for the management of the property and make necessary repairs and replacements.

This area was purchased in 1935 as part of the nationwide program for the development of submarginal lands for non-farm uses. It has been developed as an outdoor laboratory for investigation and research in wildlife conservation.

#### REGIONAL FISCAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE

The regional fiscal officers annual conference will be held in Washington, D. C., during the week of May 22. Fiscal officers from all regions and various officials of the Washington and regional offices will participate in a general discussion of financial problems and consideration of procedures to be followed in the coming fiscal year.

#### OKLAHOMA-TEXAS WATER CONSERVATION AREA

A water facilities area of approximately 275,000 acres in Harmon and Jackson Counties, Oklahoma, and Childress County, Texas, has been selected in which ranchers will receive assistance in building up supplies of water for cropland improvement and livestock use.

The work will consist largely of building stock water ponds, installing windmills, and improving existing wells. It will be carried out under authority of the Pope-Jones Water Facilities Act.

#### NOTES

On a recent trip to Region 1, Walter J. Roth, in charge of economic research, R. E. Uhland, liaison officer between divisions of research and operations, and W. F. Peel of the division of operations, attended a conference of SCS personnel and State Experiment Station employees at Ithaca, N. Y. Evaluation surveys and field tests to determine the effectiveness and practical application of a number of soil conservation practices were discussed.

Messrs. Uhland and Peel attended a similar conference at the regional office, Upper Darby, Pa., and visited several experiment stations in the region. They were particularly impressed with the work carried on at the demonstration project at Hammondsport, N. Y., on which grape vines are grown both on the contour and up and down

hill. For three consecutive years vines on the contour have yielded approximately twice as much per acre as those planted on the straight.

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Thomas L. Gaston of the cooperative planning unit is en route to Spokane, Wash., to attend a meeting of the state soil conservation committees of Region 11 and the State of Montana early next week. On his return trip he will stop at Lincoln, Nebr., to discuss the soil conservation program with the regional officers.

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A. E. Brandt of the section of soil and water conservation experiment stations, Walter J. Roth in charge of economic research, and Neil Johnson of the B.A.E., just returned from West Virginia where they discussed with Federal and State employees technique and procedure for the evaluation of the farm management economic surveys in that State.

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W. U. Garstka of the section of watershed and hydrologic studies recently visited Coshocton, Ohio, to discuss with the field staff details of the project program. He conferred with representatives of the Toledo Scale Company and the Bureau of Standards on acceptance tests of two recently installed lysimeter scales. He also visited the run-off project at Lafayette, Ind.

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Howard L. Cook and D. A. Parsons of the section of watershed and hydrologic studies spent last week in Region 5. Mr. Cook discussed the hydraulic research problems of the Region with members of the regional office at Milwaukee, Wis. He stopped at the University of Minnesota to discuss the technique and facilities at the St. Anthony Falls hydraulic laboratory and visited the soil and water conservation experiment station at La Crosse, Wis.

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#### AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES CONGRESS AT BUDAPEST

The sixth International Technical and Chemical Congress of Agricultural Industries will be held at Budapest, Hungary, from July 10 to 20, 1939. The Congress will be divided into three parts: (1) general, scientific, and industrial studies, including agronomy and research; (2) specific industries; and (3) economic studies, legislation, and international agreements.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Arrangements have been completed for extending aid to 101 soil conservation districts in 22 States. The total number of districts organized is 146 in 25 States.

One full sheet!  
3 lines -  
Shows poor Make up  
to me!





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Anten, Miss Mildred

May 27, 1939.

## INFILTRATION TRAINING SCHOOL AT CHICKASHA, OKLA.

Six men from flood control surveys, representing Regions 2, 3, 4, and 6, attended a school held at Chickasha, Okla., May 15-24. Authorized by the flood control coordinating committee and the Forest Service, and jointly supervised by G. W. Musgrave, head of the infiltration research section, and P. B. Rowe of the Forest Service, the school was conducted to train men to take over infiltration measurements which are to be a part of each of the flood control surveys.

A meeting of the infiltration committee, consisting of Mr. Musgrave, L. K. Sherman, consulting hydraulic engineer of Chicago, W. W. Horner, professor at Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., and R. E. Horton, hydraulic engineer of Voorheesville, N. Y., was held at Chickasha on May 21.

## FLOOD PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAIMED BY PRESIDENT

The week beginning May 31 has been proclaimed National Flood Prevention Week by President Roosevelt. The President urged the people of the United States "to cooperate and aid in the work of flood prevention and to give serious consideration to measures that may prevent disastrous floods and aid in the conservation of our national resources."

H. H. Bennett will broadcast on the National Farm and Home Program from Washington, D. C., on Friday, June 2, at 11:57 a.m., E.S.T. His topic will be "Conservation Practices and Flood Control."

## LEGISLATION

The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 201) on May 22 disagreeing with the Senate amendments to the agriculture appropriation bill.

and requesting a conference on the disagreements between the House and Senate. House conferees appointed were Mr. Cannon of Mo., Mr. Tarver, and Mr. Lambertson.

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On May 22 the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry reported without amendment H. J. Res. 189 to define the status of the Under Secretary of Agriculture, and S. 229 to authorize the withdrawal of national forest lands for the protection of watersheds from which water is obtained for municipalities.

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A letter from Dillon S. Myer, assistant chief, explaining the Crab Orchard project in southern Illinois was inserted in the appendix of the Congressional Record of May 23. A letter from Secretary Wallace on the same subject was inserted in the appendix of the Record of May 24.

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Bills introduced and referred to the committee on flood control were:

H. R. 6501, to provide for a preliminary examination and survey of the Edwards river, Ill., with a view to the control of its flood waters

H. R. 6510, to authorize a preliminary examination and survey of the Leaf and Bowie rivers and their tributaries in Mississippi for flood control, for run-off and water-flow retardation, and for soil-erosion prevention

H. R. 6542, to authorize a preliminary examination and survey of the Edwards river, Ill., for flood control, for run-off and water-flow retardation, and for soil-erosion prevention

H. R. 6543, to authorize a preliminary examination and survey of the Wabash river, Indiana, for flood control, for run-off and water-flow retardation, and for soil-erosion prevention.

A. E. BRANDT TO TEACH AT UTAH STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

A. E. Brandt, acting head, soil and water conservation experiment stations, will be a member of the visiting faculty of the Utah



State College of Agriculture at Logan, Utah, during the first summer session.

Dr. Brandt will lecture on design of experiments in the agronomy section and will teach an introductory course of statistics in the section of mathematics.

#### FARM AND HOME PROGRAM FEATURE BROADCAST

On June 14 the Farm and Home program will center around the Coon Valley demonstration project in Wisconsin. The Coon Valley project was the first erosion control demonstration in the country. A soil conservation district has recently been organized in the watershed.

The program will be broadcast from Chicago at 11:45 a.m., E.S.T. The participants will be George Nygaard, a farmer cooperating with SCS in the Coon Valley area; R. H. Davis, former project manager of Coon Valley area and now in charge of flood control in the Washington office; and R. H. Musser, regional conservator of Region 5. The feature will cover the history of soil conservation work in Coon Valley from the fall of 1933 when the work was started.

#### FARM CONSERVATION PLAN

Members of the Washington personnel will visit the various regions to explain the proposed farmer-district cooperative agreement. The tentative itinerary is:

Region 2, May 26-27, E. H. Reed, H. C. Diener, Melville L. Cohee and V. H. Hougen  
 Region 1, May 31-June 1, N. R. Bear and V. H. Hougen  
 Region 7, June 2-3, E. H. Reed and A. T. Semple  
 Region 8, June 2-3, H. C. Diener  
 Region 9, June 5-6, E. H. Reed and A. T. Semple  
 Region 10, June 5-6, H. C. Diener  
 Region 3, June 5-6, N. R. Bear and V. H. Hougen  
 Region 4, June 6-7, Arnold Davis and Melville Cohee  
 Region 5, June 8-9, N. R. Bear and V. H. Hougen  
 Region 6, June 12-13, Melville Cohee.

#### EDWIN R. HENSON COORDINATOR IN SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS AREA

Appointment of Edwin R. Henson as coordinator of programs for the Department of Agriculture in the Southern Great Plains was announced last week. He succeeds Roy I. Kimmel who was transferred to the B.A.E. in Washington.

As coordinator, Mr. Henson will work closely with the regional directors of USDA bureaus, including Soil Conservation Service, which have programs under way in the Southern Great Plains, and with officials of State agencies concerned with land and water use.

Mr. Henson is a native of Kansas and a graduate of Oklahoma A. & M. College. He served as county agent in Oklahoma and as professor of agronomy at Iowa State College. In 1935 he was appointed a member of the program planning division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

#### SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF FLORIDA

On April 18 the Soil Science Society of Florida was inaugurated at a meeting held in conjunction with the Florida State Horticultural Society. The president of the new society is R. V. Allison, formerly chief of the soil and water conservation experiment stations section of SCS, now head of the department of chemistry and soils, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Florida, Gainesville.

#### PRINTERS' INK

The success of the measures employed to bring back the original vegetation of the Southern Great Plains is discussed by Charles J. Whitfield and Claude L. Fly, both of Region 6, in the Journal of the American Society of Agronomy for May 1939.

In an article entitled "Vegetational Changes as a Result of Furrowing on Pasture and Range Lands" the mechanical treatment to prevent run-off is described. The increased water supply changes the composition, volume, and density of the vegetation.

On the project at Dalhart, Tex., an enclosure was established on which one half of the vegetation was treated in May 1939. Vegetational measurements, taken in October, showed three times as much vegetation on the treated portion. The most striking change, however, was in the composition of the cover which indicated a rather strong trend toward the original type of vegetation of the region.

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Adrian C. Fox, assistant biologist at Park River, N. D., explains how buffers may be utilized for winter feeding of wildlife in an article entitled "Annual Crop Buffer Windbreaks -- Natural Wildlife Feeding Stations Beneficial to Birds" which appears in The Dakota Farmer for March 11, 1939.



In the Park River vicinity 2 to 4 rows of corn drilled at right angles to the prevailing wind not only reduced the surface wind velocity but also the amount of soil drifting and soil moisture evaporation. Sunflowers, millet, buckwheat, and speltz are other buffer crops which attract wildlife.

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That the problem in erosion control is fundamentally engineering rather than strictly agricultural is the viewpoint of V. R. Hillman, agricultural engineer at Danville, Va., in an article entitled "Engineering in Soil and Water Conservation," which appears in the May issue of Agricultural Engineering.

The agricultural engineer, in Mr. Hillman's estimation, must be trained in climatology, soil science, agronomy, and forestry as well as engineering. He must also be a specialist in cooperation.

The author points out the need for an accurate classification of soils on the basis of how each soil reacts to water, both internally and on the surface.

#### ERRATA

In the May 13 issue of Service News, reference is made to the forest fire problem in the Everglades region. This statement is erroneous. The fire problem in the Everglades is one of preventing fire from destroying muck and peat lands.

#### NOTES

Alfred E. Fivaz, of the woodlands section spent the past three weeks in Texas studying the forestry problems from a soil and moisture conservation standpoint in the post oak belt, the eastern and western cross timbers belt, and the cedar brakes section.

Mr. Fivaz will leave around June 3 for Lincoln, Nebraska. He will spend three weeks inspecting the land utilization and other projects.

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T. L. Copley, supervisor, and L. A. Forest, assistant supervisor of the research experiment station at Statesville, N. C., were in Washington last week discussing the removal of the project from Statesville to Raleigh, N. C.



